

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-24 (Canceled)

25. (Original) A document retrieving and delivering method of delivering to a user a text satisfying a retrieval condition obtained from said user, comprising:

a retrieval condition registering step of obtaining retrieval conditions from each of a plurality of users and storing said retrieval conditions in a manner that each of said retrieval conditions is associated with respective user identifiers of each of said users; and

a text retrieving and delivering step of calculating similarity of a text for each retrieval condition and delivering said text to a user corresponding to a user identifier associated with said retrieval condition including a delivery condition which is satisfied by said similarity.

26. (Original) A document retrieving and delivering method according to claim 25, wherein said retrieval condition registering step comprises:

a seed document reading step of reading a seed document described in the registered retrieval conditions, wherein said

seed document includes one of a word, a sentence, and a document;

a retrieval term extracting step of analyzing said seed document read in said seed document reading step and extracting a retrieval term to be used in retrieving; and

a user identifier registration step, for each retrieval term extracted in said retrieval term extracting step, of registering a user identifier of a user who specified said seed document read in said seed document reading step.

27. (Original) A document retrieving and delivering method according to claim 26, wherein said text retrieving and delivering step comprises:

a retrieval term retrieving step, for a text of input document information, of retrieving said retrieval term extracted in said retrieval term extracting step;

a user identifier taking out step, for each retrieval term retrieved in said retrieval term retrieving step, of taking out said registered user identifier;

a similarity calculating step of calculating similarities of said text for each of said retrieval conditions according to a predetermined formula using information of appearances of said retrieval term retrieved in said retrieval term

retrieving step and said user identifier taken out in said user identifier taking out step; and

a text delivering step of delivering to a corresponding user a text which has similarity calculated in said similarity calculating step satisfying a predetermined delivery condition.

28. (Original) A document retrieving and delivering method according to claim 26, wherein said retrieval condition registering step comprises a retrieval term weight calculation step of calculating a weight for said retrieval term extracted in said retrieval term extracting step, and said text retrieving and delivering step comprises:

an appearance frequency counting step of counting an appearance frequency of said retrieval term extracted in said retrieval term extracting step in said text; and

a similarity calculation step of calculating similarity of said text for each retrieval condition by using said weight for said retrieval term calculated in said retrieval term weight calculation step and said appearance frequency of said retrieval term counted in said appearance frequency counting step.

29. (Original) A document retrieving and delivering method according to claim 25, wherein said text retrieving and delivering step comprises a similarity calculation order control step of controlling an order of calculations for calculating similarity of an obtained text for said retrieval conditions.

30. (Original) A document retrieving and delivering method according to claim 29, wherein said similarity calculation order control step comprises a similarity calculation order determination step of determining said order of calculations for calculating similarity on the basis of a predetermined delivery priority and a contract charging rate including a delivery priority specified by a user or a delivery priority of delivery service.

31. (Original) A document retrieving and delivering method according to claim 28, wherein said retrieval term weight calculation step comprises:

a retrieval term appearance text counting step of counting a number of texts in which said retrieval term extracted in said retrieval term extracting step appears; and

a weight utilizing text number calculation step of calculating a weight of said retrieval term by using said number of texts counted in said retrieval term appearance text counting step.

32. (Original) A document retrieving and delivering method according to claim 25, wherein said text retrieving and delivering step comprises a text holding step of holding a text satisfying said retrieval condition obtained in said retrieval and similarity of said text for each retrieval condition of each user.

33. (Original) A document retrieving and delivering method according to claim 32, further comprising a delivery condition setting support information exhibition step of exhibiting contents held in said text holding step to a user.

34. (Original) A document retrieving and delivering method according to claim 33, wherein said delivery condition setting support information exhibition step comprises a step of exhibiting a list of similarity, a delivery time and a delivery condition set at delivery of a text delivered to said user.

35. (Original) A document retrieving and delivering method according to claim 33; wherein said delivery condition setting support information exhibition step comprises a step of exhibiting each number of texts which are classified according to similarity levels calculated in the past.

36. (Original) A document retrieving and delivering method according to claim 33, wherein said delivery condition setting support information exhibition step comprises a step of exhibiting a graph of similarities of texts obtained in the past versus text reception time.

37. (Original) A document retrieving and delivering apparatus for delivering to a user a text satisfying a retrieval condition obtained from said user, comprising:

a retrieval condition registering unit for obtaining retrieval conditions from each of a plurality of users and storing said retrieval conditions in a manner that each of said retrieval conditions is associated with respective user identifiers of each of said users; and

a text retrieving and delivering unit for calculating similarity of a text for each retrieval condition and

delivering said text to a user corresponding to a user identifier associated with said retrieval condition including a delivery condition which is satisfied by said similarity.

38. (Original) A document retrieving and delivering apparatus for delivering to a user a text satisfying a retrieval condition obtained from said user, comprising:

- a retrieval condition registration unit, comprising:

- a retrieval condition registration control unit for obtaining a retrieval condition from each of a plurality of users;

- a seed document reading unit for reading a seed document described in said retrieval conditions, wherein said seed document is one of a word, a sentence, and a document;

- a retrieval term extracting unit for analyzing said seed document read by said seed document reading unit and extracting a retrieval term to be used in retrieving;

- a user identifier registration unit, for each retrieval term extracted by said retrieval term extracting unit, for registering a user identifier of a user which specified said seed document read by said seed document reading unit; and

- a delivery condition setting unit for storing a delivery condition corresponding to each retrieval condition in a

manner that each delivery condition is associated with said user identifier of each user; and

a text retrieving and delivering unit comprising:

a retrieval term retrieving unit, for text of an input document information, for retrieving said retrieval term extracted by said retrieval term extracting unit;

a user identifier taking out unit, for each retrieval term retrieved by said retrieval term retrieving unit, for taking out said registered user identifier;

a similarity calculating unit for calculating similarity of said text for each of said retrieval conditions according to a predetermined formula using information of appearances of said retrieval term retrieved by said retrieval term retrieving unit; and

a text delivering unit for delivering to a corresponding user a text which has similarity calculated by said similarity calculating unit satisfying a predetermined delivery condition stored by said delivery condition setting unit.

39. (Original) A document delivering system for delivering a document retrieved among document information to be retrieved, comprising:



a retrieval condition formula registration unit for registering a retrieval condition formula specified by at least one user, said retrieval condition formula including at least one retrieval term; and

a document retrieving and delivering unit for determining whether or not said retrieval condition formula is satisfied for said document information by scanning once said document information when said document information is obtained, and delivering said document information to a user for whom said retrieval condition formula is satisfied.

40. (Original) A document delivering system according to claim 39, further comprising:

query expression analyzing means for extracting all query terms for query expressions specified by a plurality of users;

means for generating a query term number count table which has stored therein management information including said users and the number of all said query terms extracted from said query expressions of said users;

means for generating a multiple strings matching table to which reference is made when text data is once scanned so that the corresponding terms occurring during the scanning can be

matched with all the query terms extracted from said query expressions;

means for generating a user list having identifiers of said users who specified said query expressions in association with said query terms extracted from said query expressions, said user identifiers and said query terms being connected as a list in association with each other;

means for scanning said text data with reference to said multiple strings matching table to match the corresponding terms occurring during the scanning with all said query terms extracted by said query expression analyzing means when decision is made of whether or not said query expressions are satisfied in said text data; and

means for deciding if said query expressions are satisfied in said text data by referring to said query terms matched by said text scanning means, said user list and said query term number count table.

41. (Original) A document delivering system according to claim 40, wherein said query expression deciding means comprises:

query term occurrence count calculating means for calculating with reference to said user list the occurrence

count of query terms matched for each user by said text scanning means; and

means for comparing the occurrence count of query terms calculated by said query term occurrence count calculating means with the number of query terms stored in said query term number count table, and deciding that the associated query expression including said query terms is satisfied.